



IBEW
CANADA

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FRATERNITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS EN ÉLECTRICITÉ

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FIOE
CANADA

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June 20, 2017

TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS

UPDATE: Bill C-4

Greetings:

On Wednesday June 14th, 2017, [Bill C-4](#), *An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code, the Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations Act and the Income Tax Act*, narrowly passed third reading in the Senate by a vote of 43-41 and 1 abstention.

This legislation repeals two anti-union Private Members Bills passed by the previous Conservative government, Bill C-377 and Bill C-525. The IBEW has worked diligently on this file over that last seven years when the first piece of anti-union legislation was tabled. Heading into the 2015 Federal election, both the NDP and Liberal parties campaigned on repealing both pieces of legislation. After winning a majority government, one of the first pieces of legislation tabled by the Liberal government was Bill C-4, which would repeal both pieces of anti-union legislation mentioned above.

With the recent appointment of Independent Senators, legislation is much more difficult for government to pass in the Senate as they no longer whip votes for their caucus and the newly appointed Independent Senators do not vote as a block. Conservative Senators rallied together in April of this year and convinced enough Independent and a few Liberal Senators to support their last-minute amendments. This caused the Bill to return to the House of Commons amended, where MP's (Liberal and NDP) immediately rejected the amendments made by the Senate, returning it back in the Bill's original form.

A very focused lobby was ensued by a small group of labour leaders, including the IBEW who played a major role in these efforts over the past few weeks. These efforts helped get just enough Senators to vote in favour of this legislation to pass un-amended.

Last night, Monday, June 19, 2017, in the Senate Chambers the Bill received Royal Assent by the Governor General of Canada in a special ceremony that was open to labour leaders, our own IBEW Representative Matt Wayland attended on behalf of the IBEW.

This has been a long hard fought battle for the labour movement, one of which the IBEW and our members has played a significant role. The grassroots lobbying efforts by our members over the last few years on these issues has certainly assisted in the campaign to overturn the anti-union legislation. I want to thank every member who participated in one form or another during those lobbying efforts. We wouldn't be in this position today, had you not been involved in the process.

I would encourage our Local Unions and our members to reach out to the Senators that voted in favour (see attached contact list) of the Bill in the original form and thank them for restoring balance for workers and unions across the country.

Thank you for attention on this important issue.

In solidarity,

Bill Daniels
International Vice President

BD/mw

Encl.

cc: First District Representatives
System Council #11
IBEW CCO

LIST OF SENATORS - VOTED IN FAVOUR OF BILL C-4

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LIST OF SENATORS - VOTED IN FAVOUR OF BILL C-4

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